

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2305
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
WAGES OF WORKERS ENGAGED IN MDMS
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the wages of workers engaged in cooking Mid Day Meals in rural areas of the country is very low;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to increase their wages;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for the upliftment of these workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (e): Under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), cook-cum- helpers are engaged as part time workers who work for 3 to 4 hours a day on school days only. Prior to 01.12.2009, there was a provision of 40 paise per child per day as administrative and labour charges under the component of cooking cost. Thus, the honorarium to cook-cum-helpers was determined on the basis of number of students in a school. From 01.12.2009, the scheme has been modified by introducing a separate component of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers. Now an amount of Rs.1000/- per month has to be paid as honorarium to each cook-cum-helper irrespective of the number of children in schools. The norms for engaging cook-cum-helpers have also been laid down under which there should be one cook-cum-helper for schools with up to 25 students, two cook-cum-helpers for schools with 26 to 100 students and one additional cook-cum-helper for every addition of up to 100 students. This honorarium is uniform for all cook- cum-helpers including those engaged in rural areas.